

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A data storage device for performing input/output of classified data in accordance with a constant procedure, storing said classified data, and operating to store history information or update at appropriate timing said history information in accordance with said constant procedure, comprising:

- an interface performing external input/output of data;
- a data storage portion storing said ~~plurality of~~ classified data;
- a log storage portion storing a plurality of items of the history information relating to the input/output of said classified data; and
- a control portion controlling the input/output of said classified data, wherein said log storage portion is provided as a ring buffer circulatively utilizing two or more regions each storing one item of said history information,

each of the plurality of items of said history information stored in said log storage portion includes identification information identifying ~~[[the]]~~ classified data ~~storing the history information and being~~ to be input/output, and

said control portion receives ~~[[the]]~~ identification information identifying ~~[[the]]~~ classified data to be input/output in accordance with start of input/output processing of said identified classified data, searches a plurality of regions in said log storage portion in a predetermined order, determines the region storing the earliest item of the history information stored in said log storage portion as the earliest region, and ~~[[newly]]~~ stores ~~[[the]]~~ new history

information relating to the input/output processing of said identified classified data including said received identification information in the determined earliest region.

2. (Currently Amended)      The data storage device according to claim 1, wherein  
in history information output processing of outputting a part or the whole of the history  
information in response to an output request for the history information,

said control portion ~~receives via said interface the identification information of the  
classified data to be input/output~~, searches the plurality of regions in said log storage portion in  
accordance with a predetermined sequence, determines said earliest region as well as the region  
storing the latest history information including said received identification information as the  
latest region, and outputs a part or the whole of the history information stored in said latest  
region via said interface.

3. (Currently Amended)      The data storage device according to claim 1, wherein  
in [[the]] input processing of [[said]] classified data including outputting of the history  
information,

said control portion ~~receives the identification information of the classified data to be  
input/output via said interface~~, searches the plurality of regions in said log storage portion in a  
predetermined sequence, determines said earliest region the latest region storing the latest history  
information including said received identification information, copies a part or the whole of the  
history information stored in the determined latest region into the determined earliest region to  
store the copied history information as new history information relating to the input processing  
of said classified data, and outputs a part or the whole of the history information stored in said

determined earliest region via said interface.

4. (Currently Amended) The data storage device according to claim 2 or 3, wherein in re-output processing of said classified data including inputting of one additional item of the history information recorded in accordance with progress of said constant procedure by another device,

said control portion receives ~~the identification information of the classified data to be input/output and~~ said one additional item of the history information via said interface in addition to the received identification information, determines said earliest region and said latest region, and determines whether said classified data is to output or not, based on the history information stored in the determined earliest region and said received one additional item of the history information.

5. (Currently Amended) The data storage device according to claim 2 or 3, wherein in [[the]] output processing of said classified data including inputting of one additional item of the history information recorded in accordance with progress of [[said]] a constant procedure by another device,

said control portion receives ~~the identification information of the classified data to be input/output and~~ said one additional item of the history information via said interface in addition to the received identification information, determines said earliest region and said latest region, copies a part or the whole of the history information stored in the determined latest region into the determined earliest region to store the copied history information as the new history information relating to the output processing of said classified data, and determines whether said

classified data is to output or not, based on the history information stored in said determined earliest region and said received one additional item of the history information.

6. (Previously Presented) The data storage device according to claim 1, wherein after said earliest region is determined, said control portion updates at appropriate times the history information stored in said determined earliest region in accordance with progress of the constant procedure before end or interruption of the constant procedure in said input/output processing.

7. (Currently Amended) The data storage device according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of items of said history information further includes a management number for identifying [[the]] sequence stored in said log storage portion, and said earliest region storing the earliest item ~~information~~ is detected based on the management numbers respectively included in [[the]] two items of the history information stored in [[the]] two regions arranged continuously in said log storage portion.

8. (Previously Presented) The data storage device according to claim 7, wherein said log storage portion is formed of a ring buffer circulatively utilizing regions of N (N is a natural number larger than one) in number, and said management number is in a residue system of M (M is a natural number satisfying  $(N < M)$ ).

9. (Currently Amended) The data storage device according to claim 8, wherein

said control portion obtains each of the management numbers respectively included in the two items of the history information store in the two regions arranged continuously in the log storage portion, determines whether the two items of the history information respectively including said [[two]] management numbers are stored continuously or not, based on a difference between the obtained two management numbers, and detects ~~the following region between~~ one of said two continuous regions subsequent to the other as said earliest region when the two items of the history information are discontinuously stored.